



Congressman Tim Bishop

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BISHOP BILL TO GUARD NATION'S VITAL ESTUARIES AGAINST LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS FACILITIES

Congressman's New Legislation Would Protect Long Island Sound

WASHINGTON, DC—Congressman Tim Bishop (NY-1) introduced legislation this week to prevent highly volatile and environmentally hazardous liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities from being placed in estuaries of national significance, which are designated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to protect public water supplies and indigenous wildlife species. If passed, the National Estuary Protection Act of 2007 (H.R. 1564) would safeguard the Long Island Sound against the proposed Broadwater Energy floating LNG terminal.

“For twenty years, the EPA has spent millions of taxpayer dollars to keep our national estuaries healthy and productive,” said Bishop. “We should not throw all that away in a mad rush for unproven technology which threatens our local population and environment.”

The National Estuary Program was created in 1987 to improve the quality of estuaries of national importance. Long Island Sound is one of just 28 such estuaries nationwide. In addition, the Clean Water Act directs the EPA to develop plans for maintaining water quality in these estuaries. To protect estuaries from industrialization, Bishop's legislation would amend the Clean Water Act to prevent the installation of liquefied natural gas technology, such as floating storage re-gasification units, which expose the environment to LNG vulnerabilities such as spills, explosions and other dangers.

“These estuaries are economic drivers, recreational resources, and cultural jewels,” said Adrienne Esposito, Executive Director of Citizens Campaign for the Environment. “That's why they are called estuaries of national significance. Congressman Bishop is providing the bold leadership needed to protect these national treasures.”

Estuaries are among the most productive natural resources on Earth, creating more food for fish and wildlife than any other type of habitat, except coral reefs. According to the EPA, estuaries provide habitat for more than 75% of America's commercial fish catch and for up to 90% of the recreational fish catch. Estuarine-dependent fisheries are among the most valuable across the nation, estimated to be worth billions of dollars. Nationwide, commercial and recreational fishing, boating, tourism, and other coastal industries provide more than 30 million jobs. Coastal recreation and tourism alone generate tens of billions of dollars of revenue for local communities.

Research commissioned by the Long Island Sound Study estimated that more than \$5 billion is generated annually in the regional economy from boating, commercial and sport fishing, swimming, and beach-going.

“This issue of protecting the Long Island Sound is one that resonates with millions of people in the region,” said Sid Bail, President of the Wading River Civic Association. “Congressman Bishop has been a steadfast defender of the estuary from the get go.”

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